

ordering a defendant to appear in court. b. The total quantity of writs or summonses issued in a particular proceeding. c. The whole course of a judicial proceeding. 6. *Biol.* A part extending or projecting from an organ or organism: *APPENDAGE*. 7. A photomechanical or photoengraving method: — *vt.* -essed, -ess-ing, -ess-es. 1. To put through the steps of a prescribed procedure. 2. To prepare; treat, or convert by subjecting to a special process. 3. *Law.* To serve with a summons or writ. 4. To institute legal proceedings against: *PROSECUTE*. 5. *Computer Sci.* To perform operations on data. — *adj.* 1. Prepared or converted by a special treatment <process cheese> 2. Made by or used in photomechanical or photoengraving methods <a process print>

process² (prə-sēs') *vi.* -essed, -ess-ing, -ess-es. [Back-formation < PROCESSION.] To move in or as if in a procession.

proces-sion (prə-sesh'ən) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *processio*, advance < *procedere*, to advance. — see *PROCEED*.] 1. An act of proceeding, moving along, or issuing forth. 2. a. A group moving along in an orderly and formal way, usu. in a long line. b. The movement of such a group. 3. A continuous and orderly course <the procession of the months> — *vi.* -sioned, -sion-ing, -sions. To form or go in a procession.

proces-sion-al (prə-sesh'ə-nəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or fitting for a procession. — *n.* 1. A book containing the ritual observed during a religious procession. 2. A hymn sung at the beginning of a church service. 3. Music meant to be played or sung during a procession. — **proces-sion-al-ly** *adv.*

proces-sor (prəs'əs'ər) *n.* 1. One that processes. 2. A computer. 3. *Computer Sci.* a. A central processing unit. b. A program that translates another program into a form acceptable to the computer being used.

process printing *n.* Printing from multiple, usu. four, halftone images, each inked with a different color such that the composite impression will reproduce the colors of the original.

pro-cès-ver-bal (prə-sə'vēr-bāl') *n., pl.* -ver-baux (-vēr-bō') [Fr. *procès*, proceedings + *verbal*, oral.] 1. An official record of diplomatic negotiations. 2. A detailed official record of legal proceedings.

pro-choice (prə-chois') *adj.* Favoring or supporting a person's legal right to choose whether or not to continue a pregnancy to term.

pro-claim (prō-klaim', prə-) *vt.* -claimed, -claim-ing, -claims. [ME *proclaymen* < OFr. *proclamer* < Lat. *proclamare*: *pro-*, forward + *clamare*, to cry out.] 1. To announce officially and publicly: *DECLARE*. 2. To indicate unmistakably. 3. To praise: extol. — **pro-claim'er** *n.*

pro-cla-ma-tion (prōk'lə-mā'shan) *n.* 1. An act of proclaiming. 2. Something proclaimed, esp. an official public announcement.

pro-clit-ic (prō-kli't'ik) *adj.* [NLat. *procliticus* < Gk. *proklinein*; to lean forward: *pro-*, forward + *klinein*, to lean.] Forming an accentual unit with the following word and thus having no independent accent. — **pro-clit'ic** *n.*

pro-cliv-i-ty (prō-kli'v'i-tē) *n., pl.* -ties. [Lat. *proclivitas* < *proclivus*, inclined: *pro-*, forward + *clivus*, slope.] A natural propensity: *PREDISPOSITION*.

Proc-ne (prōk'nē) *n.* [Lat. < Gk. *Prokne*.] *Gk. Myth.* The sister of Philomela and betrayed wife of Tereus who was changed into a swallow before Tereus could kill her.

pro-con-sul (prō-kōn'səl) *n.* [ME < Lat. < *pro consule*, for the consul.] 1. A Roman provincial governor of consular rank. 2. A high administrator in a modern colony, dependency, or other occupied area, and having wide-ranging powers. — **pro-con'su-lar** (-sə-lər) *adj.* — **pro-con'su-late** (-sə-lit) *n.* — **pro-con'sul-ship** *n.*

pro-cras-ti-nate (prōkrās'tə-nāt', prə-) *v.* -nat-ed, -nat-ing, -nates. [Lat. *procrastinare*, *procrastināt-*: *pro-*, forward + *cras*, tomorrow.] — *vi.* To put off doing something until a later date. — *vt.* To delay. — **pro-cras'ti-na-tion** *n.* — **pro-cras'ti-na-tor** *n.*

pro-cre-ate (prō'krē-āt') *v.* -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates. [Lat. *procreare*, *procreat-*: *pro-*, forward + *creare*, to create.] — *vt.* 1. To beget (offspring). 2. To produce or create: *ORIGINATE*. — *vi.* To beget offspring. — **pro'cre-ant** (-ant) *adj.* — **pro'cre-a-tion** *n.* — **pro'cre-a-tor** *n.*

pro-cre-a-tive (prō'krē-ā'tiv) *adj.* 1. Capable of reproducing: *GENERATIVE*. 2. Of or directed to procreation <procreative impulse>

pro-crus-te-an also **Pro-crus-te-an** (prōkrūs'tē-an) *adj.* [After *Procrustes*, a mythical Greek giant who stretched or shortened captives to make them fit his beds < *prokrouein*, to stretch out: *pro-*, forth + *krouein*, to beat.] 1. Producing or intended to produce conformity by arbitrary or ruthless methods. 2. Having or exhibiting ruthless disregard for individual differences or special circumstances <procrustean legislative enactments>

procrustean bed also **Procrustean bed** *n.* An arbitrary standard to which precise conformity is forced.

pro-cryp-tic (prō-krip'tik) *adj.* [Prob. *PRO(TECT)* + *CRYPTIC*.] *Biol.* Having a pattern or coloration adapted for natural camouflage.

proc-ti-tis (prōk'ti'tis) *n.* [Gk. *prōktos*, anus + *-itis*.] Inflammation of the anus or rectum.

proc-tol-o-gy (prōk'tōl'ə-jē) *n.* [Gk. *prōktos*, anus + *-LOGY*.] Physiology and pathology of the rectal area. — **proc'to-log'ic** (-tə-lōj'ik), **proc'to-log'i-cal** *adj.* — **proc'to-log'i-cal-ly** *adv.* — **proc-tol'o-gist** *n.*

proc-tor (prōk'tər) *n.* [ME, university officer < *procurator*, procur-

rator.] A dormitory and examination supervisor in a school. — **vt.** -tored, -tor-ing, -tors. To supervise (an examination). — **proc-to'ri-al** (-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *adj.* — **proc'tor-ship** *n.*

proc-to-scope (prōk'tə-skōp') *n.* [Gk. *prōktos*, anus + *-SCOPE*.] An instrument for dilating and examining the rectum. — **proc'to-scop'ic** (-skōp'ik) *adj.* — **proc-tos'co-py** (-tōs'kə-pē) *n.*

pro-cum-bent (prō-kūm'bənt) *adj.* [Lat. *procumbens*, *procumbent*, *pr.* part. of *procumbere*, to bend down: *pro-*, forward + *cumbere*, to lie down.] 1. Bot. Trailing on the ground <a procumbent vine> 2. Lying face down: *PRONE*.

proc-u-ra-tor (prōk'yā-rā'tər) *n.* [ME *procurator* < OFr. < Lat. *procurator* < *procurare*, to take care of: — see *PROCURE*.] 1. An agent with power of attorney. 2. A Roman official acting as a financial agent of the emperor or as an administrator of a minor province. — **proc'-u-ra-to'ri-al** (-yā-rā-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *adj.*

pro-cure (prō-kyūr', prə-) *v.* -cured, -cur-ing, -cures. [ME *pro-curen* < OFr. *procurer* < Lat. *procurare*, to manage: *pro-*, for + *curare*, to care for.] — *vt.* 1. To obtain: acquire. 2. To bring about: effect <procure a settlement of a strike> 3. To obtain for another (a person) for sexual intercourse. — *vi.* To work as a procurer. — **pro-cur'a-ble** *adj.* — **pro-cur'ance**, **pro-cure'ment** *n.*

pro-cur-er (prō-kyūr'ər, prə-) *n.* 1. One who procures <a procurer of new executive talent> 2. *PANDER* 1.

pro-cur-ess (prō-kyūr'is, prə-) *n.* A woman who procures.

Pro-cy-on (prō'sē-ōn') *n.* [Lat. < Gk. *Prokyon*: *pro-*, before + *kyon*, dog.] A double star in the constellation Canis Minor.

prod (prɒd) *vt.* **prod-ded**, **prod-ding**, **prods**. [Orig. unknown.] 1. To poke or jab, as with a pointed instrument. 2. To rouse to action: *GOAD*. — *n.* 1. Something for prodding: *GOAD*. 2. An incitement: stimulus. — **prod'der** *n.*

prod-i-gal (prɒd'ɪ-gəl) *adj.* [Lat. *prodigus* < *prodigere*, to squander: *prod-*, before (var. of *pro-*) + *agere*, to drive.] 1. Recklessly wasteful: *EXTRAVAGANT*. 2. a. Profuse in giving. b. Exceedingly abundant. 3. Profuse: lavish <prodigal praise> — *n.* One inclined to luxury or extravagance. — **prod'i-gal-ly** *adv.*

prod-i-gal-i-ty (prɒd'ɪ-gəl'i-tē) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. Extravagant wastefulness. 2. Profuse generosity. 3. Extreme abundance.

pro-di-gious (prə-dij'əs) *adj.* [Lat. *prodigiousus* < *prodigium*, omen.] 1. Awesomely great in size, force, or extent: *ENORMOUS*. 2. Extraordinary: marvelous. 3. Ominous: portentous. — **pro-di'gious-ly** *adv.* — **pro-di'gious-ness** *n.*

prod-i-gy (prɒd'ɪ-jē) *n., pl.* -gies. [Lat. *prodigium*, omen.] 1. One with remarkable talents or powers <a child prodigy> 2. An act or event so remarkable or rare as to inspire wonder. 3. An omen.

pro-drome (prɒ'drəm') *n., pl.* -dromes or -dromo-ma-ta (-drɒ'mə-tə) [Fr. < Gk. *prodromos*; precursor: *pro-*, forward + *dromos*, running.] A symptom of the onset of a disease. — **pro-dro'mal** (-drɒ'məl), **pro-drom'ic** (-drɒm'ik) *adj.*

pro-duce (prə-dūs', -dyūs', prə-) *v.* -duced, -duc-ing, -duc-es. [Lat. *producere*: *pro-*, forward + *ducere*, to lead.] — *vt.* 1. To bring forth: *YIELD*. 2. To create by physical or mental effort. 3. To manufacture. 4. To give rise to: 5. To bring forward: *EXHIBIT*. 6. To sponsor and present to the public <produce a musical revue> 7. To extend (an area or volume) or lengthen (a line). — *vi.* To make or yield the customary product or products. — *n.* (prɒd'ūs, prɒ'dūs). A product, esp. farm products as a whole. — **pro-duc'i-ble** *adj.*

pro-duc-er (prə-dūs'ər, -dyūs'ər, prə-) *n.* 1. One that produces, esp. one that manufactures or grows goods or services to sell. 2. One who finances and supervises the production of public entertainment, as a play. 3. A furnace for manufacturing producer gas. 4. *Ecol.* An autotrophic organism in an ecosystem.

producer gas *n.* A gas used as fuel, generated by passing air with steam over burning coke or coal to yield a combustible mixture of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen.

producer goods or **producers' goods** *pl. n.* Goods, as raw materials or tools, for making consumer goods.

prod-uct (prɒd'ʌkt) *n.* [Lat. *productum* < *producere*, to bring forth. — see *PRODUCE*.] 1. Something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process. 2. A direct result: *CONSEQUENCE*. 3. *Chem.* A substance produced by a chemical change. 4. *Math.* a. The result arrived at by performing multiplication. b. A scalar product. c. A vector product.

pro-duc-tion (prə-dūk'shan, prə-) *n.* 1. An act or process of producing. 2. Creation of value or wealth by producing goods and services. 3. *PRODUCT* 1. 4. The total number of products: *OUTPUT*. 5. A public performance, as of a play. — **pro-duc'tion-al** *adj.*

pro-duc-tive (prə-dūk'tiv, prə-) *adj.* 1. Producing or able to produce. 2. Producing abundantly: *FERTILE*. 3. Yielding useful or favorable results: *CONSTRUCTIVE* <productive marketing ideas> 4. Of or involved in the creation of goods and services to produce wealth or value. 5. Resulting in <investigations productive of discoveries> — **pro-duc'tive-ly** *adv.* — **pro'duc-tiv'i-ty** (prɒd'ūk-tiv'i-tē, prɒd'ʌk-), **pro-duc'tive-ness** *n.*

pro-em (prɒ'em') *n.* [ME *prohème* < OFr. < Lat. *proemium* < Gk.

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which ī pit
ī tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise oō took